

# TOLUCA LAKE TIMES



## WORDS

## OF

## WISDOM

### Question:

*"There are two wolves who are always fighting. One is darkness and despair. The other is light and hope. The question is: Which wolf wins?"*

### Answer:

*"The one you feed."*

*- From the film,  
Tomorrowland  
(written by Brad Bird  
and Damon Lindelof)*



## Toluca Lake's Night of the Arts

by - Maylea Barranco, Melanie Marquez,  
Samantha Molinari, & Xithlaly Rodriguez

This year's *Night of the Arts* was a big success! It was a time for kids to show their character. There were many performances by many different groups. The Story Pirates, started the evening off strong. The Story Pirates are a group of actors funded by the Geffen Playhouse in Westwood. They have been teaching kids in third and fifth grade how to write stories and essays all year. During the Night of the Arts, the Story Pirates acted out some of the students' stories!

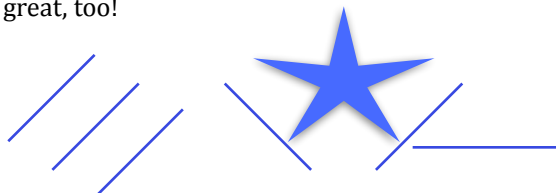
The Story Pirates actually got their name, "Story Pirates" by thinking that stories are their treasure, and their favorite type of characters are pirates. One of the Story Pirates, Connor White, just had his first book published by HarperCollins. It's called *Shivers!: The Pirate Who's Afraid of Everything*. It's a funny story with a good meaning like the performances they did at the Night of the Arts.

Following the Story Pirates, students from Mr. Hagen-Smith's fifth grade class showed their *Water Works For Us* powerpoint. Each student helped create two slides about problems caused by the drought locally and globally. Their presentation also showed water conservation tips to help solve these problems. Then, they sang "This Water is Your Water" (adapted from Woody Guthrie's "This Land is Your Land"). The audience really enjoyed the song and started singing and clapping along!

Next, Mr. Reidman's third grade students performed "Gopher-The Musical". The kids wrote the play themselves. Bruce Gray, a professional actor from films like *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* and *American Family* volunteered throughout the year to help the students learn how to act in a play. This was his 13th year helping out students at our school. He must have done a great job because the kids rocked the play!

The 2nd & 3rd grade chorus did a great job presenting their "Whacky Spring Fever" show with our music teacher, Dorothy Caimano. Then, the Recorder Club came on stage and did a great job playing their instruments.

All of these students performed a magnificent show. This was the best night at Toluca Lake for all students. Everybody enjoyed Night of The Arts. People laughed, clapped, and smiled. We hope next year is great, too!



**Principal's Message:**

*As the year ends, we at Toluca Lake are extremely proud of the many accomplishments of our students. They have grown tremendously in their learning and are well prepared for the next grade. Of course, none of this would be possible without the wonderful support provided by you their parents. With your help, we now have a beautiful garden for our students to learn about healthy food choices, we have a psychomotor program for our students to practice playing games as a team and we are able to provide many hands on activities either here at school, or on field trips due to your generosity during our fund raisers. As you can see, we are working together as a team and truly prove our motto that "together we achieve"!*

*- Carol Reo-Bove*

## Calendar

June 1 - Student Vs. Faculty Softball Game  
 June 4 - Fifth Grade Culmination  
 June 5 - First day of summer vacation!  
 June 16 - Greater Toluca Lake Council Mtg.  
 June 21 - Father's Day  
 July 4 - Independence Day  
 August 18 - First Day of School

**Featured Faculty:**

### Mr. Wyatt: Master Teacher's Assistant! by - Stephanie Guerra, Rita Kharadjian, Igor Kocjan, and Jonathan Montenegro

Mr. Hamilton Wyatt is a masterful teacher's assistant in Room 17. He began working at Toluca Lake from 2014-2015 starting in August. To achieve his career of becoming a university professor, he needs to have a Master's Degree in history. That's why we call him "Master!"

Some of his hobbies are painting, riding his bike, photography, and reading history books and novels. His advisor, Mark Wild, inspires Mr. Wyatt because they have a similar track of their accomplishments. Mr. Wyatt is also on the Board of Directors at the Heritage Square Museum in Highland Park.

The toughest part of Mr. Wyatt's job here at Toluca Lake Elementary is making sure everybody respects each other. His proudest moment was getting a book review published because it was a lot of hard work, and it felt good to be recognized by peers. He has had to overcome the obstacles of juggling two jobs, volunteering, and attending graduate school.

One of the reasons he loves working at our school is seeing the diversity of all the students because it shows different people working together. "Always respect yourself and always have confidence in everything"



## The Petersen Automotive Museum Visits Toluca!

by - Christine Manachian, Arian Sanchez, & Jazmin Echeverria

On Monday, May 11, Mr. Mark and Mr. Diana came to our school to talk about alternative fuel. They came all the way from the Peterson Automotive Museum! They taught us that our oil is running out, so we need more options for fuel to power our cars. We learned about different kinds of alternative fuels such as solar, wind-power, hydrogen-power, and biodiesel fuel.

We did a lot of fun activities like making our own wind-powered car models using only recyclable materials. After we got the body of the car (a water bottle), we used balloons for the power, put them onto our straws, blew the balloons up, and raced them in the hallway!

Before we made the cars, we actually got to see to real cars that were very different from each other. One was an old type of car, the Studebaker. The other car was a newer type of car, Mr. Mark's Honda. The newer car went faster, yet used less gas.

We learned a lot during the Peterson Automotive presentation. We hope we can learn more and study about designing cars for the future. Most importantly, we hope they come again to our school!

# **Black History Essays: Dr. Yvonne Cagle**

**by Rita Kharadjian (5th Grade)**



Yvonne Cagle was born in West Point, New York on April 24, 1959. She grew up to become the famous astronaut we all know. She participated in N.A.S.A.'s missions and is a big inspiration to many people. She received rewards and certificates by using her perseverance. She applied for helpful jobs and saved many lives. How she did all of this is the question.

First, Dr. Yvonne Cagle received a lot of certificates, proving her intelligence. Earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1977 shows her creativity. She also was awarded a Doctorate in Medicine from the University of Washington in 1985. She was able to provide aid to ill people. Finally, she received an honorary PH.D in Humanities. Her life follows the phrase, "Carpe Diem," which means "Seize The Day" because she went above and beyond the norm. She provides a strong inspiration for me.

Secondly, Cagle has experienced a lot of amazing events and jobs, showing her quality as a go-getter. She went through medical training sponsored by the Health Pro Scholarship program. This program provided her a commission as an officer with the U.S. Air Force. This accomplishment shows that she was skilled. In April 1988, Cagle became certified as a flight surgeon and was involved in providing medical aid during missions. Finally, she served as the deputy project manager for Kelsey-Seybold Clinics, practicing as an occupational physician at N.A.S.A.'s Johnson Space Center's occupational Health Clinic in Houston, Texas. She was a big help to many with her first aid expertise helping keeping people alive.

Third, Dr. Yvonne Cagle was a helpful participant at N.A.S.A.. She served as a surgeon and helped when people were wounded. Cagle volunteered to serve as the Air Force Medical Liaison Officer for the STS-30 Atlantis shuttle mission to test the Magellan spacecraft. Finally, she completed two years of training and was qualified for flight assignment as a space shuttle mission specialist. She is a role model for young men and women everywhere.

Obviously, Dr. Yvonne Cagle is an awesome role model. She accomplished so much and her accomplishments are important because she gets money for a living and her skills improve health and the background knowledge for those of us interested in the expanding universe. She inspires me to take opportunities and become a doctor. To do that, I'd have to get degrees and certificates like Cagle. A quote about her is, "Dr. Cagle will discuss the importance of risk management and effective leadership, based on her background in science and medicine." This shows she puts effort into what she does. She is indeed a humongous inspiration.

## **Charles Luther Sifford**

by - Ladon Ramos (1st Grade)

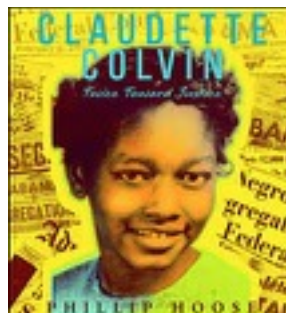
Charles Luther Sifford was the first African American to play on the PGA tour. He was inducted into the Golf Hall of Fame.



## **Claudette Colvin**

by - Haylee Carbajal (1st Grade)

Claudette Colvin got on a bus. A white lady was standing. The bus driver told her to move back. She said, "No!"



## **Pharrell Williams**

by - Leonidas Kozek (1st Grade)

Pharrell Williams inspires me to be happy, happy, happy!





## **1915: Never Again**

**Editorial by - Rita Kharadjian (5th Grade)**

Why April 24? Why do we celebrate the memory of the Armenian Genocide on April 24? We recognize the genocide on this day because it was the very day the Turks kidnapped and murdered innocent Armenian poets, lawyers, engineers, doctors, and priests. They were taken out of their homes and killed in various ways. The population decreased to only children, women, and elders.

Exactly 1.5 million Armenians were massacred or died more slowly from heat, starvation, and cold. The Turks forced the Armenians to march through Aleppo and then through the deserts of Derzor where many of them died. The Turks ate bread, and held it out of reach in front of them to tease them. Mothers killed their innocent babies by choking them or throwing them in the river, so the Turks couldn't take them away, torture, and eventually kill them. Young women and girls committed suicide by drowning themselves in places like the Euphrates River. It's been 100 years now, but there's no

difference: Turkey still hasn't recognized the genocide, or their brutal and furious actions. Armenians all over the world are doing their best to gain recognition for this terrible event so that people can learn from it. We haven't forgotten that a cruel man named Talat Pasha said, "I will kill all Armenians and leave one in a museum."

That is why we have events like community marches to spread the message. We will continue to

march until we get our land back, and this event is recognized as an act of cruel terrorism. Turkey, get your hands off our land and our memories!



## **A Very Bad Dentist Day**

**by - Jolie Alvarez (4th Grade)**

It was Monday, a bright and sunny ordinary day, but I never knew that just a bite of my favorite cereal could lead to a scary dentist appointment. I was seven years old waiting for my mother to serve breakfast. I walked to the dinner table and sat down. Suddenly, one little bite of cereal made me wonder, "Is this normal to lose a tooth that wasn't meant to loose.?" That is the day I experienced pain and fear.

One morning I was waiting for my mom to serve breakfast. "Honey breakfast is ready" she yelled. I ran to the dinner table as fast as a cheetah, because I was hungry! Mmm mother served my favorite Chocolate Coco Puffs. Mmm Coco Puffs turn everything chocolaty. The Coco puffs looked so chocolaty and the milk turned into chocolate milk in about 2 minutes! I was so hungry that I was drooling.

Finally, I took a bite. But for some reason, I felt a pointy hole in my mouth. Suddenly, a small piece of tooth fell out. "MOM! A piece of my tooth came out!" I shouted very scared. "Is that normal?" I asked kind of confused.

"Well....it happens sometimes," she replied. "But unfortunately honey you'll have to go to the dentist. But quick because at night that won't let you sleep."

"The dentist!" I cried. "But ..... but, the dentist has a bunch of pointy things." I exclaimed.

"Sorry honey" Mom said. We quick made a dentist appointment for 2:00 p.m., and we had to skip school. That was the only thing I was happy about, we had a book report for homework, and let me tell you, that book report was not easy. Time went by lightning quick! It was already 2:00 p.m.! When we got to the dentist, I had to sit down in this weird, big, and tall chair. The minute I sat down, I was already crying.

"Honey, what happened!" the dentist said. I didn't answer. I just kept crying.

"She's crying because the kids have heard a lot of stories about the dentist." Mom replied. "Dry up your tears, Jolie." Mom said. I lied down and calmed myself.

"Ok I'm just going to put some sticky cream so you won't feel a pinch," the dentist said. I didn't believe her. The dentist took out this pointy tool, but I didn't feel the pinch. I guess the dentist was right. After the dentist took my tooth out, I had to leave. I'm glad I got that over with, but I just wish I didn't cry so much. On the ride back my mom asked me if that hurt. "I guss rot," I said drooling.

"Sorry Honey, I can't understand you." My mom asked me to write because my lip was still sticky from the cream. I had to wait for an hour for that cream to come off! The next time I am scared of something, I am going to face it.

After waiting an hour, I could finally talk and eat. It was time for lunch so I thought... CHOCOLATE COCOA PUFFS! I finished eating, and at least my tooth didn't come out this time. But during lunch at home, Mom could finally ask me about my experience because this time I could talk. I said back that I realized that as I grow up, I am going to have to do things I don't want to do and face my fears. I am no longer afraid of the dentist, but still am carful when you're eating, or you'll see!

## **Fifth Grade Memories**

**Compiled by - Marleen Martinez, Scott Vielman, & Melaine Marquez**

### ***My Favorite Fifth Grade Memory is...***

- *Camp Clear Creek because we got to hike and see nature.* – Angelina Ruvalcaba
- *The Huntington Library because it was a fun experience.* – Robert Campos
- *The Walt Disney Concert Hall because it was fun and amazing.* – Allyssa DeLuna
- *Hearing my teachers inspirational words like, "TOUGH Toenails."* – Melanie Marquez
- *Being in Mr. Hagen-Smith's Class.* – Joshua Pepper
- *Lunch because it tastes good, and spending time with my friends.* – Gerardo Rivas
- *Making people laugh.* – Kylie Tyler
- *There were so many field trips so that we could learn more.* – Samantha Molinari
- *Running a mile because physical fitness is important.* – Mr. Daniel
- *Story Pirates because the students writing has improved.* – Ms. Bove
- *The Star Party because we saw different stars.* – Igor Kocjan
- *The visit by the Peterson Automotive Museum because I got to learn about cars, and my alternative energy car was the fastest & straightest!* – Bryan Casas
- *The trip to UCLA because it taught us how they use c. elegans for brain research ... and all about the Big Bang.* – Aiden Bernal
- *Field trips because they're fun and educational.* – Jonathan Montenegro
- *Camp Clear Creek because it was fun singing songs, doing crafts, playing games, (and especially going for really long hikes!).* – Rita Kharadjian
- *UCLA because it is my favorite college.* – Stephanie Guerra
- *Visiting the L.A. River because we got to be outside.* – Mr. Wyatt
- *When the children worked really hard, and did amazing presentations.* – Mr. Reidman
- *Field trips because we learned so many things we can use in life.* – Marleen Martinez
- *Camp Clear Creek because of the wildlife and the night hike.* – Zachary Ragle
- *Reading exciting books like Pi in the Sky, Benjamin Franklinshtein Lives!, March: Book One, and I Am Malala with my hard-working students!* – Mr. Hagen-Smith



Carol A. Reo-Bove (Principal)  
Jeff Daniel (Coordinator)  
Annette McDuffey



Toluca Lake Elementary  
5th Grade  
2014 - 2015



Dennis Hagen-Smit  
Jennifer Tucker  
Hamilton Wyatt

## Space Weather (UCLA Presentation)

by - Samantha Molinari,  
Stephanie Guerra, & Bryan Casas



On March 19, 2015, two very special guests came to our fifth grade classes to teach about space weather!

Emmanuel and Zoe both work at the Earth Planetary Space Science Department at UCLA! They showed us all about auroras and space weather.

We were interested in all of the new ideas we learned about space weather. We learned that 99.99% of plasma is in space. Also, we learned way more about the center of our solar system, the sun. For example, the sun gives off solar flares that cause auroras. Without the sun having solar flares, we wouldn't have the beautiful Northern and Southern Lights. These Auroras only happen near the North & South poles because Earth has an iron core causing a magnetic shield that blocks this solar radiation. This magnetic shield is weakest at the poles so that's why the auroras are visible there.

Have you ever wondered why we can see the sun's sunspots? The answer is because the sun rotates faster than earth so we can see all of the sun at one time or another. It takes 25 days to see a sunspot at the same spot you saw it previously.

They brought a miniature aurora that Emmanuel created to help explain this lesson. They also had a plasma ball that was cool because the electricity follows your finger when you touch the outside of it.

Learning about space weather was space-tastic! We hope that Emmanuel and Zoe come back for future students.

## Friends of the Island Fox

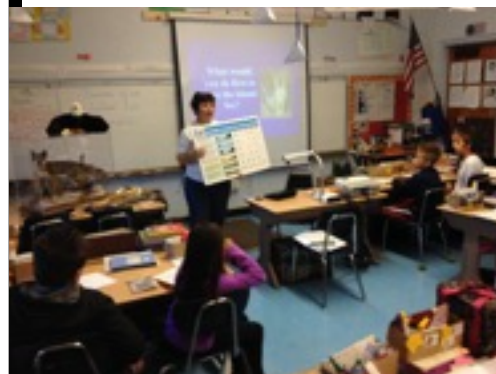
by - Kylie Tyler,  
Rita Kharadjian, & Alyssa Mora

Friends of the Island Fox visited our school recently. They are a volunteer organization that has been helping the island fox since 2005. Without them, the Island Fox would probably be extinct now.

In the 1990's, the population of island foxes had dropped below 100. They were being killed by golden eagles that had come to the island to eat feral pigs. Then, naturalists began to breed the island fox and brought the bald eagle back to the island. The bald eagle had been dying due to DDT poisoning. Now, that the bald eagle is back, golden eagles have been scared away and are not eating island fox.

Keri Dearborn is the docent who visited our class. She showed us graphs about the population of the island fox. She also had examples of fox fur and radio collars used on island fox. We thank the volunteers for helping save the island fox from extinction, and making it possible to

see some  
on our 5th  
grade field  
trip to  
Santa  
Cruz  
Island.



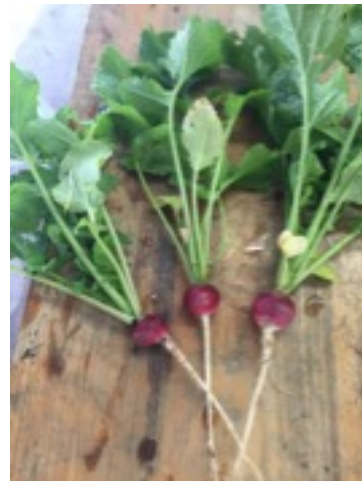


## **Special Guests \* Special Times**



*Parent Volunteer Frank Gutierrez joins his daughter Isabella and Ms. Claudia Torres behind the irrigation system he built for Room 22. The children enjoy watching the water trickle through the clear pipes and down onto the plants. They've gained an understanding of how an irrigation system works, while we've been growing our own food as a community!*

*Our youngest students comment on the new garden: "I like to see my radishes grow."  
"The plants need water to grow."  
"My broccoli keeps growing with my help." Thanks to all of parents for making this garden possible!*



**Julio Contreras in Uniform  
Firemen: Present & Future!**

*The Los Angeles Fire Department provided a special visit to our students.*



# **Black History Essay Contest**

## **Fifth Grade:**

### **EMMETT TILL** **by - Heidy Paniagua**

Emmett Louis Till was a fourteen year old boy that helped start the Civil Rights Movement. Emmett Till was born on July 25, 1941 in Chicago, Illinois. His friends nicknamed him Bobo, which means a person that is crazy. Emmett's parents were Louis and Mamie Till. Emmett never knew his dad a private in the United States Army during World War 2. His mother was a clerk at the Air Force; she was in charge of confidential files. Emmett Till was a responsible, funny, and intelligent high spirited child. He suffered from Polio at the age of 5 but managed to make a full recovery, it left him with a slight stutter.

Unfortunately Emmett died at the early age of fourteen. His main accomplishments were graduating from the seventh grade from McCosh Grammar School and recovering from Polio. In 1955, Till's great uncle, Moses Wright came from Money, Mississippi to visit his family. Moses Wright was planning to take Till's cousin Wheeler Parker to Mississippi on his way back. When Emmett heard about this he pleaded his mother to allow him to visit his relatives. At the end Emmett's mother agreed to the idea. The day before Till left, his mother gave him a signed ring that belonged to his father. She also gave him information on proper behavior in the South. She told him "Be careful if you have to get down on your knees and bow when a white person goes past, do it willingly."

On the morning of August 24, 1955 Emmett and some friends entered Bryant's Grocery and Meat Market to buy refreshments. Before entering the store, Till showed some pictures of his white friends back home to some of the local boys outside the store. Once they saw the pictures the boys then dared Emmett to talk to the clerk of the store. The woman was the owner's wife Carolyn Bryant, she was very pretty. What happened next is still not clear. According to some Emmett flirted and wolf whistled at the owner's wife. To modern day society this may not be a big deal, but down South on the 50's this was considered a punishable crime. Four days later Roy Bryant and J. W. Milam showed up at Wright's house and kidnapped Emmett. Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam brutally killed Emmett. They beat him up, dragged him to the bank of the Tallahatchie River, shot him in the head, tied him with barbed wire to a large metal fan, and shoved his mutilated body into the water.

Emmett died on August 28, 1955. His body was pulled out of the river three days later. His face was beyond recognition and Wright only managed to identify him by the ring on his finger. His corpse was sent to Chicago where his mother had an open casket funeral. Thousands of people came to the Roberts Temple Church of God to see the evidence of the horrible, brutal, and hate crime. Emmett's murder had become a source of outrage and indignation throughout the country. His death brought nationwide attention to the racial violence and injustice prevalent in Mississippi.

My opinion of Emmett Till's life is that he did not deserve to have died at such a young age. How Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam murdered him was horrible. I understand how an African American wasn't able to speak to white women, but he was just fourteen years old! He could have become an artist, a musician, a poet or even a Civil Rights Activist. One of the books that helped me on my book report was *A Wreath For Emmett Till* by Marilyn Nelson. On one of the pages there was a piece of a poem that caught my attention. The words were, Its red sap pleads the case for its inclusion in the theme of a wreath for the memory of Emmet Till. Though the white poppy means forgetfulness, who could forget, when red sap on a wreath recalls the brown boy five white monsters killed. I understood that when I choose Emmett Till for my biography, it was going to be a challenge. He died at fourteen which means there was not that much to write about. His story has taught me that there are always consequences for your actions. Since Emmett was so young and immature he didn't realize he was putting himself in a dangerous position. He wanted to show off to his friends, and as a result he was killed. The positive side of this horrible crime was that months after Emmett's death the Civil Rights Movement began.

I would definitely recommend this biography to others. Reading about Emmett Till's life can seem sorrowful at moments, but it gets better along the way. While doing the biography on Emmett Till you learn many valuable lessons about life. You also get to learn and truly understand how the African Americans were treated in that time period. Whenever I read about Emmett's death, it brings one question to my mind. Why would someone do something so horrible and horrific? At school Ms. Mc Duffey is teaching us about African Americans almost every minute. She asked us one question, why do we treat each other and judge each other by how we look? We are all the same race, the human race. Those two questions are always played in my mind. May you rest in peace Emmett Till, for you have been a mighty part in our history.



## **Olympic Star for Toluca Lake!**

by

**Osmarely Soto, Jazmin Echeverria,**

**Stephanie Guerra, & Jacob Keledjian**



Mr. Jeff Williams went to 36<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary School as a kid. Most of his teachers would always discourage him and say that he couldn't accomplish what he wanted. But, he would never doubt himself! One of the things that helped him realize he was good enough to reach his goals was by reading his favorite book, *The Hobbit*. That book taught him that anything was possible. His favorite subject in school was history because he likes to learn about important events in the past, and how they have effected the present, and will effect the future.

Mr. Williams retired from Olympic competition because for a number of reasons. He had suffered many injuries in legs. He also retired because of his age, which didn't make it fun anymore. He said that he was too old to play the games because they seemed childish! He also retired because it took a lot of time and work, which was hard for him because his daughter needed his attention when she was little.

Mr. Williams has made the world a better place. He uses the power of fitness and tough love to make us all more physically fit. It took a lot of bumps in the road and hard work, but we all have had a lot of fun working with Mr. Williams.

Mr. Williams is a great person that just wants kids to have as much fun as he did. Next time you hear that name, think of a great guy that loves to play games with young kids just like you!

## **Around the Town**

This section of our newsletter features free or inexpensive activities happening "around the town." We encourage you to extend your child's learning by exploring the many cultural activities available in the greater Los Angeles community.

- The Los Angeles Natural History Museum is featuring its annual Butterfly Pavilion this summer. It's open daily from 9:30 am - 5 pm until September 7.
- Los Angeles' Union Station is featuring a special exhibition of "Women Can Build: Re-Envisioning Rosie" through June 19 (all day, every day). The exhibit features original photographs, artifacts, and stories ... and there's a free screening of "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" on Friday, June 12 at 8:00 pm.
- The California Science Center is featuring "Dead Sea Scrolls: The Exhibition" throughout the summer. While you're there, you can check out the space shuttle Endeavor, the "Ecosystems" exhibit, an IMAX film and much more!
- The Heritage Square Museum in Highland Park features a number of historic Victorian buildings, a wide array of artifacts, and very special events. You can view silent films there on July 25 & August 1. They are also hosting "A Night of Magic" on July 11. Call (323) 225-2700 for more information.

## Teacher Tips

*As students head into summer vacation, it's important to maintain an emphasis upon education at home. Practicing math skills, writing letter to friends & family, reading for pleasure & doing projects will help keep children interested in learning. Family outings and events are still very important for them. Try to keep them involved in group activities such as athletics or the arts to facilitate their transition to the next grade level. And, be sure to encourage the students to read one hour each day during the summer; there's still no greater asset for their future success than reading.*

## Better Speech & Hearing Month

May is Better Speech and Hearing Month

Put down the IPAD and phone. Turn off the computer, TV and radio and have a conversation with your child. Make time each day for conversation. Talking, listening and responding to your child helps develop the ability to understand and follow the rules of conversation. You can help your child learn to take turns and share more information if you:

\*Pause after you speak, giving time for child to take a turn.

\* Don't ask questions over and over.

\*Help your child stay on topic by extending his conversation and adding related information.

\*Show that you are listening and comment on what your child says.

Feel free to have a conversation with your school's Speech Pathologist, Karen Mansky.

## Hike for Health

by - Swaad Asad and Connor Coats

Fourth and fifth grade students from Rooms 11 & 13 went on a field trip to Griffith Park for an event called "Hike for Health." Both classes had fun hiking up to the end of the trail. The trail led us to see the beautiful view of the Hollywood sign and the catchy view of our Los Angeles County. It was a wonderful experience for both classes to join this program. Hike for Health was an outstanding trip.

At the end of the trail, there was a stop at this beautiful sight where we met many city workers and rangers that made this program possible. At the stop, there were booths for snacks and water to cool down after the hard work of hiking. There were many sections of that sight where many rangers had animal specimens to study. At the site, we got to see our councilman Tom LaBonge. We also got to meet different students from different schools

At the site, we were introduced to all of the rangers who help protect the trail. We were also entertained by our councilman and the other schools with singing and dancing. From this field trip, we learned many facts. Hike for Health is a wonderful event for people to visit Griffith Park and be healthy. Going to Griffith Park and hiking up to the end of the trail was an amazing experience for both of the classes, and it was an honor to meet Councilman Tom LaBonge.

## The Learner's Creed

by - Kemani Saunders (Kindergarten)

I will feel ... I will think ...

I will reason ...

I will read ... I will write,

I will do all these things, with **"ONE"** purpose in mind,  
to **do** my best and not waste **this** day,

for **this** day will come

**know** more.

**Awesome Alumni:****Colossal Karla Cativo****by - Alyssa Mora, Samantha Ruvalcaba, Joshua Pepper, & Zachary Ragle**

This semester's Awesome Alumni is Karla Cativo. She graduated Toluca Lake Elementary School in 1994. Since that time she has graduated high school, studied abroad in Chili, graduated from UC San Diego, earned a Masters Degree, and been admitted into the PhD program at UC Santa Cruz! Wow! She's sure been busy!

We are very grateful to that Karla Cativo visited us. She spoke to us about different cultures. Learning about cultures helps us to embrace life. She feels that everyone should unite and help each other. She also taught us things like that you need to learn from your mistakes.

We learned many things about Karla Cativo. One of the things that we learned is that she loves soccer. We also learned that she loves experiencing other cultures. In fact, Karla's parents were immigrants. She has grown up with lots of respect for the wisdom people can gain from people with different backgrounds. In addition, Karla stills stays in touch with many of her former classmates, and remembers former teachers like Ms. Miya and Mr. Hagen-Smith.

Karla Cativo cares a lot about the students at our school. She is the person who first came up with the idea for an *Awesome Alumni* column! She even came to see us perform at the Night of the Arts. She likes to learn from those around her. Karla Cativo says, "It is important to share ideas and notes because you can inspire others." Karla Cativo is a very inspirational role model for us kids. That's why she has been selected to be our school's second annual Keynote Speaker at this year's graduation. We are proud to interview this month's Awesome Alumni ....

**Hot Pizza!****by - Sarina Ramos (4th Grade)**

On a perfect camping trip there was the sky, so crystal clear as the Golden sun moved delicately near the gray fluffy clouds. The only sad part was it was time to go home. My two scout friends, Esly and Sarah, wanted to get pizza. I thought it was just going to be a normal getting pizza thing and nothing was going to happen, but that was the day I really experienced pain.

We got in the car, and Momma started to drive. We talked, played, we also did a little drawing. I never knew how much fun I could have in a car. Sarah was talking about Shopaholic (her favorite shop), until Momma pulled up to the first Little Ceaser's Pizza. Sly said, "Denise, can you get me pepperoni please?"

"And can I have some Cheese pizza?" added Sarah.

"What she said," I called out.

"Of course," said Momma. She ran inside for our pizza.

We talked, drew, and played again, until we got bored. "(Groan) This is taking forever!" I whined.

Momma came back out. "Be careful, the pizza is hot!" she said.

The only problem was my friends were wearing clothes, but I was wearing a bathing suit so the pizza on my lap hurt. I put it up so it could hang on the seat and touch my knees I opened to eat then SPLAT! All the pizza fell on my legs! I screamed to the top of my lungs, so loud I was sure all the in people in Antarctica could hear some screaming. Momma quickly took my out of the car, poured cold water on my legs, and gave me a big hug. It was the some of the worst pain I have ever felt.

"Momma, (sniffle) I sorry... I ruined the rental car (sniffle)," I said. Momma told me that she didn't care about the rental car, and what is important is I'm okay. She gave Esly the water bottle and put a pool towel on my legs. She told Esly to pour the water on the towel. She took a sip of it and then poured all the water on my legs. I fell asleep the whole ride home.

Once we got home, I woke up. Papa opened the door and carried me inside, "What happened?" he asked.

"I... got... pizza... burns." I said, crying again. I told him I would never eat pizza again. I knew it was a painful experience. I know Momma said I was lucky to have the life I have, but maybe not just right now.

I learned a lot from this experience, but I think the most important one is to NEVER eat HOT pizza over your legs in a one-piece bathing suit 'cause if you drop it, you can get pizza burns like me.



## Toluca Lake Elementary



### An Arts Prototype School

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#### Principal:

Ms. Carol Reo-Bove

#### Assistant Principal:

Ms. Carla Miller

#### Coordinator:

Mr. Jeff Daniel

#### Lead Teacher:

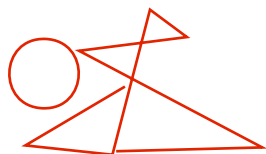
Mr. Steve Reidman

#### Parent Representative:

Ms. Lucy Gonzalez

#### Newsletter Editor:

Mr. Dennis Hagen-Smith



## Riddle Me This!

- Maylea B. asks: If you divide the circumference of the sun by its diameter, what will you have?
- Marleen M. asks: What do you get when you cross a cow with a trampoline?
- Joshua P. asks: Why can't Elsa hold a balloon?
- Scott V. asks: How long can a happy person run?
- Sofie Maya asks: Why didn't the skeleton cross the road?
- Zachary Miles asks: What do you get when you cross the Atlantic with the Titanic?

## Super Sleuth Quiz & Scavenger Hunt

1. How did the Story Pirates get their name?
2. What is the name of the museum that Mr. Wyatt helps direct?
3. Who was the first African American to play on the PGA tour?
4. What is at the center of our solar system?
5. What is Jolie Alvarez' favorite cereal?
6. What is Olympic star Jeff Williams' favorite book?
7. Where did the Hike for Health take place?
8. In which foreign country did this year's Awesome Alumni, Karla Cativo, study during college?
9. Where was Emmett Till born?
10. What did Sarina Ramos learn about pizza?
11. What is the name of one book that you're going to read during summer vacation?
12. What is one physical activity you are going to do outside this summer?

Scavenger Hunt: Where can you find this garden?